



Welcome to our February / March newsletter! As it's a very short half term, our newsletter this time will see us through until after the Easter break. Time is going so quickly this year and it's hard to believe we will soon be in the Summer Term.

The school continues to make good progress this year. We have had very positive feedback from a recent school 'Health Check' that took place at the end of January. There is clear evidence that the school is making good progress on its journey to becoming an Ofsted 'good' school. We don't know when our next Ofsted inspection will take place, but we will continue with our school development and improvements regardless! There was a good quote on the internet earlier this week that said, *'Don't wait for Ofsted to improve standards, improve standards and wait for Ofsted'*. A valid point that echoes our thoughts here at Brooklands. We are improving our school for our children, not for Ofsted! The ethos of Brooklands is about improving the education of the children and all of the adults in school are wholly committed to that. However, I do understand that sometimes it's difficult to see why changes have to take place at all. So, if there is anything you are not sure about or that you would like more information on then

**Our new 'Homework Hub' (see below)**



please do pop in and see me. I can't always promise to be available there and then, but I will certainly arrange a time for you to meet with me as soon as I can. Also, we will shortly be issuing a parent questionnaire, so please look out for this and let us have your feedback. The message is the same as ever from me; without your feedback we can't act on it. I can't promise to please everyone, but be assured that every decision made is in the best interest of the children.

Ms. Ceri Hathaway

**Homework:** I have been really impressed by the standard of homework that is coming into school. There has been such a variety of projects too. Over the half term break I can see that many of you have been busy cooking, modelling, building and researching. There has also been some writing submitted which is of an excellent standard. Teachers have chosen, the best of the best homework to be displayed near our entrance hall in the new 'Homework Hub'. Ask your child if they will show it to you. The standard is amazing! Thank you to you all for supporting the children's learning at home. It really does make a huge difference.



**Staffing Update:** There are some staff changes for next term. We do recognise that staffing changes mid-year are not ideal, however please be assured that we do make every effort to try to ensure consistency in classes. Mr Langdon's role in school has changed now. He will be working supporting the learning and teaching in Key Stage 1 from now on. Meanwhile, Mrs Parsons will be moving to Y1 for the summer term and sharing a class with Mrs Birchall. Mrs Parson's has been with us for some time now and we are pleased that she has agreed to work with Mrs Birchall in Sparrows class.

After Easter, the Magpies will be taught by Mrs Pappa who has been working closely with Mrs Parsons for the last few weeks and will continue to do so for the rest of this term. Parents of children in Magpie class will also have the opportunity to meet Mrs Pappa at parents evening later this month. In reception Mrs Thompson will be changing her role for the Summer Term. She too will be supporting learning in class. She will also be handing over to the new reception teacher this term so that the teaching is consistent and the transition will be seamless for the children. We will be recruiting permanent teachers for September during the summer term.

**Uniform Update:** You may be aware that in response to a request by parents and governors, the school is considering revising its code of school dress. Mr Ball will be leading this and has written this message below for the school Spring newsletter:

We are currently setting up a consultancy process for the possible introduction of a new school uniform dress code from September 2016.

At the moment, a Steering Committee has been established and has met in school. This committee is chaired by myself and consists of: a teacher, a school governor, a parent and four pupils who have been elected by the School Council. During the last meeting we agreed on a timeline for the consultation process.

The consultative timeline is as follows;

- February 2016 - Agreement to open up consultation throughout the school community
- February 2016 – Consultation with the school council about changes to school uniform.
- Children asked to design a uniform via a school competition. (School council reps to promote in school)
- March 2016 – A parent questionnaire regarding school uniform will be sent out to all parents to collect their views and opinions regarding a change.
- A meeting for all parents will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in the KS1 hall.

No decisions will be made until all school stakeholders have been consulted and a consensus has been reached. Please be assured that we are making affordability our first priority and that we do value your opinions, hence the consultation process. It is anticipated that the new school logo will be integrated into the design competition and that the school colours will not change significantly.

Currently, opinion favours the introduction of a tie, white shirts, cardigans / jumpers and black shoes. This may vary depending on the age of the children. We are also considering whether uniform should be introduced into our school nursery. Fleece and summer uniform arrangements will also be considered along with affordability. At the moment, jackets or blazers are not being proposed.

The aim is to involve local suppliers and it is hoped that parents will be able to play an active role in this process. Thank you in anticipation of your support. Any comments or contributions can be addressed directly to me at school.

Many thanks. **Mr P. Ball.**

**From the PTA:** Spring is here and the PTA are organising an Easter Egg Hunt on March 17th after school. The children will have to find and answer twenty questions before they can claim their egg. The cost will be £1 per child. Refreshments and a tuck shop will also be available. We are also pleased to announce that we are funding a poly tunnel for the school allotment. Many thanks for your continuing support– *Miss. P. Dunham (Chair of PTA).*



**Say no to Bullying!** - We are very strong at school on our stance on bullying. We do not, and will not, tolerate bullying in any form. Sometimes, children do call each other names out on the playground but thankfully, these incidents are rare. When adults are made aware of incidents of this nature, they always intervene and if the problem continues, senior staff are called to become involved, if they are not already. Parents must encourage children to tell adults if they feel that they are being upset by other children. We all recognize that sometimes children fall out in school, but I do not want any of our Brooklands children to feel unsafe or that they cannot talk to an adult. All of the adults in school are keen to help children and make them feel safe, happy and well cared for. This year we will begin working towards the Derbyshire STOP! Anti-bullying award. Miss O'Neill will be working closely with Governors, parents, staff and children to

develop a revised anti-bullying policy along with other initiatives throughout the year. We plan to take part in the national Anti-bullying week in October and will be running e-safety workshops later in the year to help you keep your child safe online. If you have any suggestions or would like to be part of a working party please contact Miss O'Neill.



**Sport Relief 2016:** The school will be participating in Sport Relief 2016 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March along with the rest of the country. We are inviting children to come to school dressed in their favourite sports clothing for the day. So we are looking forward to seeing footballers, rugby players, dancers, runners, tennis players, baseball and basketball and all other manner of different sporting activities represented in school that day! Children are asked to donate £1 to participate. All of this money will be donated to Sports Relief.

**Parking outside School:** Please be courteous to our neighbours and to other parents when parking outside of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. There have been a couple of complaints from local residents about careless and wreckless parking on Oakley's Road in particular. There have also been some disturbing incidents on Clumber Street too between parents. I would respectfully ask that you consider parking away from school and then walking the last part of the journey, if you have to come to school by car.



**Internet Safety:** Before half term as a school we took part in Safer Internet Day, a global event to help 'play our part for a better internet!' During the week we learnt about Hector the Protector the on-screen dolphin, thought about how to communicate online and found out what to do, and who to tell if we know someone else is misusing the internet. Please see the Internet Matters website for a quick interactive guide on how to install parental controls on devices at home.

<http://www.internetmatters.org/controls/interactive-guide/>



**Sports and PE update:** You will have received a letter before half term about fitness testing in school. This has been successfully carried out this week and we will be publishing the overall results on the website soon. Also a reminder for the parents of Y5 children that Bikeability starts on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please remember to bring bikes into school on Monday. Children who are due to go swimming will be doing Bikeability instead this week so need not bring their swimming kit.

**Parents Evening:** Our next parents consultation evening will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Please look out for letters coming home soon. We will also be handing out parent questionnaires on parents evening for you to complete and return.